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Emmanuel Church Family Fair Set for September 19
By Aline Weiller

Fun will abound at Emmanuel Church's time honored 109th Family Fair on Saturday, September 19, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, on the parish grounds, 285 Lyons Plain Road, Weston. Fairfield County residents and beyond are invited to attend this family-friendly event, that will take place rain or shine.

The festivities planned are many and varied. Fair goers will be entertained by Weston's own Chris Coogan, an Emmanuel Church Nursery School graduate and resident hometown musician. Coogan and his quartet will treat the crowd to a range of numbers from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, while tweens and teens can enjoy a performance by the student band, Orbit, later in the afternoon.

Traditional carnival fare including hamburgers and hotdogs will be on tap as will ice cream, popcorn and other snacks. In addition, kids will relish pony rides, face painting, a dunk tank, an inflatable obstacle course (new this year) and a variety of children's games. Students will especially want to try and "Soak Mr. Doak" as Middle School Principal, Daniel Doak, will be one of the volunteer dunk tank participants at 2:00 pm.

What's more, attendees will be invited to enter the ever popular, "Best Chocolate Chip Cookie in Connecticut" contest -- back with a panel of local judges, including Katy Piazza, Emmanuel's Priest-In-Charge, Hurlbutt Elementary School Principal Laura Kaddis, Weston Forum Editor Patty Gay, Kiwanis President Dawn Egan, *Moms in Weston* blogger, Catherine

Revzon, and Student Government Co-President, Eric Benninghoff. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place. Bakers of all ages are encouraged to enter at no charge. Bring one dozen, homemade chocolate chip cookies, a list of ingredients (required for entry) & your name and contact information to the contest table by 12:00 noon, the day of the fair. Creativity is welcomed -- the only rule is that the cookies include chocolate chips. Guidelines can be found on the church website (www.emmanuelweston.org).

Shoppers will delight in the selection of treasures sold via booths of every sort to include toys, collectibles, furniture, jewelry, baked goods (at Emmanuel's popular "Country Kitchen"), art, children's books and garden items. The 'handmades' tent has made a comeback for this year's event and promises to be a crowd pleaser. Great finds are sure to be discovered throughout the Family Fair. Cash and credit cards accepted; no checks please.

Additionally, the younger set is invited to Story Time -- another new feature -- with Weston children's author and illustrator, Clare Pernice, who will read from and sign her well reviewed hardcover, *Circus Girl* (Simply Read Books, 2014), between 10:00 - 11:00 am, in the designated area for children's books.

All can bid on a Silent Auction sporting a vast array of items donated from community businesses, vendors, artisans and the like. Attractive items include Mets tickets, a weekend getaway to Florida, a fully decorated handmade dollhouse, gift certificates to Aitoro's, Camp Playland, Westport Country Playhouse and Caramoor. Plus an elliptical machine, a signed and framed original print from Weston photographer Peter Friedman, a universal gym and a private wine tasting at Grapes. Themed gift baskets, rounds of golf and other sought-after surprises will also be part of the auction.

“I look forward to our 109th Family Fair with great enthusiasm. It’s a time honored tradition that promotes fellowship among our congregation and beyond parish borders. It’s also a day of relaxed fun for people of all ages -- and the perfect vehicle through which to extend Emmanuel’s hospitality. The Family Fair exemplifies the true meaning of community,” said Katy Piazza, Emmanuel’s Priest-In-Charge.

Fair Committee Chair, Kit Hamilton, also commented, “Having worked on Emmanuel’s Fair several years running, I can say with sincerity, it’s a memorable happening. Families flock from all across the state to enjoy the children’s activities, great deals and entertainment. The Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest is also always a big draw. I’m thrilled to lead our team as we plan and put on this year’s event.”

Emmanuel will also be collecting canned goods for the Weston Food Pantry during fair hours. A drop-off box will be inside the Parish Hall.

109-years old, the Emmanuel Family Fair proudly fosters a home-grown atmosphere and promotes a true sense of community -- a sure-fire, winning combination. Additional details can be found at www.emmanuelweston.org or by calling the church office at (203) 227-8565.

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Photo Caption: (Left to right) Emmanuel’s teen parishioners, Grace Juneau, Lily Butt and Claire Magee, at last year’s Fair, helping unload the prized pony.

Photo Credit: Chris Juneau